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Erratum: Body size preferences in the pot-bellied seahorse *Hippocampus abdominalis*: choosy males and indiscriminate females

Mattle, Beat ; Wilson, Anthony B

Abstract: Male seahorses (genus *Hippocampus*) provide all post-fertilization parental care, yet despite high levels of paternal investment, these species have long been thought to have conventional sex roles, with female mate choice and male-male competition. Recent studies of the potbellied seahorse (*Hippocampus abdominalis*) have shown that sex-role reversal occurs in high-density female-biased populations, indicating that male mating preferences may lead to sexual selection on females in this species. Egg size, egg number, and offspring size all correlate positively with female body size in *Hippocampus*, and by choosing large mating partners, male seahorses may increase their reproductive success. While male brood size is also positively correlated with body size, small *H. abdominalis* males can carry exceptionally large broods, suggesting that the fecundity benefits of female preference for large partners may be limited. We investigated the importance of body size in reproductive decisions of *H. abdominalis*, presenting focal individuals of both sexes with potential mating partners of different sizes. Mating preferences were quantified in terms of time spent courting each potential partner. Male seahorses were highly active throughout the mate-choice trials and showed a clear behavioral preference for large partners, while females showed significantly lower levels of activity and equivocal mating preferences. The strong male preferences for large females demonstrated here suggest that sexual selection may act strongly on female body size in wild populations of *H. abdominalis*, consistent with predictions on the importance of female body size for reproductive output in this species

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